

**DIVISION OF ADULT OPERATIONS
CALIFORNIA STATE PRISON - SACRAMENTO**

P.O. Box 290002
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January 25, 2006

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Regarding the *Associated Press* article about the use of inmates to keep order, I was interviewed for this story and am deeply troubled that what I read is contrary to what I said.

Let me set the record straight. Inmate James "Boots" Tigar, a convicted murderer and a white supremacist, was not a member of the Inmate Advisory Council at the time of the November 2004 incident that culminated in the death of inmate Shiflett. Inmate Tigar was not given broad access throughout the prison nor was he used as a so-called "peacekeeper."

Inmate Advisory Councils are communications conduits from inmates to prison management. Consistent with state law, inmates are elected to these councils by other inmates. They are not so called "peacekeepers."

An excerpt of a memorandum I wrote last April was used out of context. In that memo, I warned my staff against using inmates in volunteer work assignments as intermediaries unless authorized. I issued this memo after the murder of Correctional Officer Manuel A. Gonzalez, Jr. as part of an effort by all prisons to evaluate inmate movement in the wake of that tragedy. Using the memo to give the perception that I was addressing the issue of so called "peacekeepers" is journalistically irresponsible.

I welcome any review of the more than 750 reportable incidents that occur each year by any internal or external organization. Any fair investigation will prove that we do not use inmates as "peacekeepers."

California State Prison - Sacramento houses 3,000 of the most violent inmates in the state. My employees, who risk their lives every day, continuously gather intelligence to keep order including communicating with inmates. I am proud of the work they do.

Sincerely,

Scott Kernan
Warden
California State Prison – Sacramento